

## ***PRESS ALERT***

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California Postsecondary Education Commission  
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### **State Higher Education Commission to Debate Policies and Strategies for Meeting Future State Needs**

*June 15, 2005* — Sacramento — The California Postsecondary Education Commission will meet on June 21 to discuss critical issues affecting California higher education. These will include:

- **The challenges and programs associated with the community college transfer function.** The State's ability to accommodate future enrollment growth depends heavily on the community college system's success at enrolling, educating, and transferring students who seek a baccalaureate or higher level degree. The Commission's report contains specific recommendations for ensuring that student transfer in California is effective.
- **The role of higher education in meeting California's workforce demands.** This report provides the framework for the Commission's analysis of how higher education can meet the dynamic and diverse requirements of California's economy. Included in the discussion will be a fact sheet on baccalaureate production and labor market demand.
- **The granting of doctoral degrees by the California State University.** The granting of doctoral degrees has been the exclusive responsibility of the University of California. Recent legislation, Senate Bill 724, authored by the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, would authorize the California State University to award doctoral degrees in selected applied fields. The Commission will discuss questions and issues in the context of CPEC's responsibility for reviewing and analyzing proposals for new academic programs.
- **New academic programs.** This report reviews proposals for academic programs, discusses major policy issues and implications, and proposes an enhanced model for the evaluation of joint doctoral programs. It also provides an historical context for the changes proposed in SB 724 as they relate to the current use of joint doctoral programs to meet labor market demand.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov).